

# The Columbus Dispatch.

FORTIETH YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1919.

## MISSION WORKERS IN SESSION HERE

FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF  
NORTH MISSISSIPPI MIS-  
SIONARY SOCIETY  
CONVENES.

Sessions Being Held at First Meth-  
odist Church—Fire Interferes  
With Initial Session  
Tuesday Night.

The initial meeting of the fortieth annual session of the North Mississippi Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist church, which was scheduled for Tuesday night, was postponed until this morning on account of the fire in the lack of lighting facilities and the demolition incident to the big fire in the business district.

More than a hundred delegates arrived in the city Tuesday afternoon and were present for the opening session which was held this morning. The conference is being presided over by Mrs. J. W. Conger, of Valden, president of the society. The delegates are guests in the homes of the city. The conference will be in session through Friday.

Following is the program announced for Wednesday and the remaining days of the conference:

Wednesday morning, March 19, 9:00—Devotional service. "Forces for the New Era, the Needed Strength." Rev. W. L. Duren, presiding elder, Columbus district. Administration of Holy Sacrament. Organization. Report of conference treasurer, Mrs. W. W. Wilburn, Lexington, Miss.

Reports of district secretaries as follows:

Aberdeen district, Mrs. J. H. Houghton, Aberdeen; Columbus district, Miss Alma McGee, Columbus; Corinth district, Miss Corinne Rogers, New Albany; Durant district, Mrs. Elma King, Durant; Greenville district, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, Cleveland; Holly Springs district, Mrs. L. L. Grady, Holly Springs; Jackson district, Mrs. R. M. Short, Sardis; Winona district, Mrs. C. A. Neal, Carrollton. Quiet hour, 11:15—Prayer, "Power and Its Limitless Possibilities," Mrs. Hargrove, Nashville, Tenn.

Wednesday afternoon, 2:00—Devotional: "Forces for the New Era," vision, Mrs. S. M. Thomas, Jackson, Miss. Centenary round table, "Woman and the Centenary," Mrs. M. L. Hargrove, Nashville, Tenn. "The Centenary and Foreign Missions," Miss Martha Pyle, China. "The Centenary and Foreign Missions," Miss Martha Pyle, China. "The Centenary and Home Missions," Miss Grace Gatewood, Nashville, Tenn. 4:15—Questions from the floor. Committee meetings.

Wednesday evening, 8:15—Devotional. "A World Survey," Mrs. Susie Thomas, Starkville. "The Orient," Miss Martha Pyle, China. "Latin America," Miss Mary Jane Baxter, Brazil. "Africa," Rev. Dr. D. L. Mumpower, Africa.

Thursday morning, March 20, 9:00—Devotional. "Forces for the New Era Service," Mrs. J. F. Evans, Tupelo. Reports: First vice-president, Mrs. R. P. Neblett, Como; second vice-president, Mrs. J. M. Bradley, Kennett, Mo.

Presentation of honor roll certificates to young people and juniors. Methods, with young people, with juniors. "Untilled Fields and Their Possibilities," Mrs. R. M. Short, Sardis. Report of superintendent of supplies, Mrs. Susie Thomas, Starkville.

Quiet hour, 11:45—"A God Approved Intercessor," Mrs. M. L. Hargrove, Nashville.

Thursday afternoon—Memorial Service, conducted by Mrs. E. T. Clark, Cleveland. Reports: Superintendent of study and publicity, Mrs. L. G. Fant, Holly Springs; superintendent social service, Miss Etta Murry, Ripley. "An Efficient Auxiliary," Mrs. J. M. Wyatt, Shelby. "North Mississippi and the Centenary," Rev. Ben P. Jacob, Winona. Address, Dr. D. L. Mumpower, Africa.

Thursday evening—Young people's evening. Devotional, Miss Janita Brown, I. I. & C. Columbus. "Life Enlistment," Miss Grace Gatewood, Nashville. "World Conditions Visualized," Mrs. Hargrove, Nashville.

Friday morning—Devotional. "Forces for the New Era—Enlistment," Mrs. T. F. McBeath, Columbus. Pledges. Report of Co-Operative Home, Miss Adeline Peeples, Corinth. Granada College. Committee reports.

Quiet hour—"Good Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God," Mrs.

## ANTI-PROHIB ORGANIZE. Would Make Eighteenth Amendment Forever Inactive.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Organization of the Association Opposed to National Prohibition was announced here tonight with the avowed "prime purpose" of making the eighteenth amendment to the constitution "forever inoperative."

Application for incorporation under the laws of New York will be made next week, it was said. Among the incorporators will be Percival S. Hill, president of the American Tobacco Company; Joseph W. Barriman, president of the Harriman National Bank, and Michael Friedman, president of B. Altman & Co. No person officially connected with the organization, it was declared, has any interest, directly or indirectly, in the liquor business.

Plans for organization of branches in 29 states have been laid, it was announced, and nearly 800,000 persons already have applied for membership.

The organization, it was declared, stands on the principle of "personal rights and liberties," and is opposed to introduction of any bills in Congress or in the various state legislatures differentiating between light wines and beer and whiskey.

It is as strongly opposed, the statement declared, to prohibition by constitutional amendment of the manufacture and sale of cigarettes, cough drops and chewing gum as it is to the prohibition by constitutional amendment of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants.

In addition to the organization's campaign to influence public opinion for "maintenance of the standards of personal liberty" by "all lawful and proper means," the organization also proposes to disseminate information regarding the political, social and economic effect of the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages, to promote temperance in the use of alcoholic beverages "and to oppose any movement to limit or discontinue the use of tobacco."

The organization will hold mass meetings and parades in 43 cities on April 19, the anniversary of the firing of the first gun of the American Revolution. A national convention is to be held, the announcement says, between June 1 and June 15.

## IN LINE WITH OTHERS.

The Merchants and Farmers Bank has fallen in line with the other progressive financial institutions of the city and has placed a handsome contract with the Dispatch for a strong and aggressive campaign of advertising which will begin at an early date. This bank carried its statement with this paper last Sunday and it was a fine one, revealing a gratifying condition in all its departments.

The statement showed an increase of \$70,000 in deposits over its previous statement. The bank is listed on the treasury department honor roll for having taken more than 100 per cent of its quota of U. S. Treasury Certificates. Its average was 143 per cent.

The value of The Dispatch's circulation is being attested every day by the increase of the volume of its business. New subscribers are being enrolled daily and they are on the cash-in-advance business basis and are all satisfied. The Dispatch is in thorough touch with all new citizens coming here and they are all being enrolled as subscribers the moment they come here.

The Merchants and Farmers Bank will have an attractive line of ads from time to time and they will be worth reading.

Mr. Galus Bush, of Artesia, was a visitor in Columbus yesterday.

Hargrove, Nashville.

Friday afternoon—Devotional. "Forces for the New Era—Faith," Miss Adeline Peeples, Corinth. Reports. Representative on Memphis Methodist Hospital Board, Mrs. J. M. Wyatt, Shelby. Representative on Mississippi Methodist Orphans' Home Board, Mrs. W. W. Seales, Starkville. Election of officers. Committee reports.

Friday evening—Devotional. Miss Martha Pyle, China.

Selection of place of next annual meeting. Committee reports. Closing service, "Stewardship, the Divine Claim." Consecration, the human response, Miss Corinne Rogers, New Albany.

Adjournment.

## DISAST

FIRE BR... OM GAS... EXPLOS N IN  
SHOP—COLUMBUS CLOTHING COMPANY BUILDING  
AND SIX-STORY BANK BUILDING AMONG THE  
BIG LOSSES.

Ater Building is Completely Demolished and the Telephone Building  
and Equipment Suffers Extensive Damage—Fire Burned  
For Over Four Hours—Heroic Work is Done by  
the Various Fire Departments.

One of the most disastrous fires Columbus has ever experienced broke out in the Burlason Barber shop at 3:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and before the flames were arrested the three-story Columbus Clothing Company building was completely destroyed and the handsome six-story building of the Columbus National Bank was almost totally destroyed.

The Ater building immediately east of the bank building was completely wrecked as a result of falling walls and the building and the equipment of the Cumberland Telephone building sustained extensive injury, as did the Princess picture show.

Following are the estimated losses: Columbus Clothing Company building, valued at \$35,000, and the large stock of the company.

Columbus National Bank, valued at approximately \$100,000, almost totally destroyed.

The Ater building, valued at about \$4,000, a total wreck.

Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company building, badly damaged by falling walls.

Princess Picture show water and fire damage.

A gasoline explosion in the rear of Burlason's barber shop started the fire at 3:30 o'clock. The flames gained good headway from the start, and a large volume of smoke prevented combatting the fire at its incipency. A stream of water finally began to play on the flames from the rear of the building, but too late to be effective, and the flames leaped to the roof of the building and soon it was a seething mass of fire. The center roof of the building fell with a terrific crash which accelerated the flames.

From the Columbus Clothing Company's building the flames leaped to the bank building through the windows on the west wall, and soon the two top stories of the six-story building were a mass of flames. The fire in the top of this building spent its force for lack of sufficient water pressure, despite heroic efforts to reach it was a stream of water.

In the meantime the fire was gutting the corner building and soon the front walls fell with a huge crash to the street below, carrying with them telephone and telegraph wires. In a few minutes the west wall fell with another terrific crash, and then the entire building was a mass of red flames.

After the fire in the top of the bank building had gutted the upper stories, a portion of the front wall fell from the fifth and sixth stories with a thundering crash to the street. This brought with it a portion of the east wall, which demolished the Ater building and did extensive damage to the telephone company's building.

By effective work the rear of the Columbus Clothing Company building was brought partially under control, and the Princess Theatre immediately adjoining in the rear was saved, although damaged. Streams of water were played on the picture show building in order to save it.

At the time the fire broke out the afternoon show was in progress and Manager Kuykendall quietly announced that a fire had broken out in an adjoining building and requested the audience to pass out quietly. The building was evacuated in splendid order.

The fire ate its way to the lower stories of the bank building and by hazardous and heroic work the firemen arrested the flames practically midway of the building. Great damage was done to the lower floors by falling timbers and water.

It was a miracle that the east wall of the building did not fall. It stands now a menace to adjoining buildings. Firemen ascended telephone poles in front of the building in the face of great danger and played a stream of water into the seething mass of flames with effective results. At 8 o'clock last night practically all of the fire had been extinguished.

When the fire first broke out there was a rush to save the stocks of goods in the various buildings and

hundreds of citizens performed heroic work in saving valuable stocks of goods and removing other valuables in the various offices.

Mrs. Henry Terry had a narrow escape. She was in the dental office of Dr. J. S. Hill and was shut off from escape by way of the stairway and forced to descend from the second floor with the aid of a ladder which was pushed up to a window.

Practically all of the office equipment of Dr. Hill's office was saved. In the bank building all of the records of the Draft Board were destroyed with the exception of the master record book, which was saved by the heroic action and presence of mind of Miss Mary Clark, secretary of the board. She rushed into the building after the fire had made its appearance in the upper stories and came out with the big book in her arms.

All records and monies in the bank were safely placed in the fire-proof vaults and the building evacuated when it became apparent that it was in serious danger of being destroyed. All records of the banks are intact and safe in the vaults.

Calls for help were sent out to adjoining towns and responses came from Payne Field, West Point and Aberdeen that help would be rushed to the scene. Shortly before 6 o'clock a hose truck from West Point in charge of three firemen reached the city. Later a motor from Payne Field, bearing soldiers in charge of Lieut. Lawrence, acting commander of the field, arrived. They were followed by additional men and the field ambulance, a chemical wagon and a hose truck. Forty soldiers were placed on patrol duty to keep the crowds back from the danger of falling walls and flying debris. They patrolled and guarded the business district during the night.

The fire truck from Aberdeen with Mayor Acker aboard, started for Columbus, but became disabled on the way and did not reach the city.

The Boy Scouts rendered heroic service in keeping the crowds back and assisted effectively in handling hoses.

A Dispatch reporter this morning made a canvass of the losses of the fire and secured approximate estimates from the owners of all property in the stricken area. Following is a list of the estimated losses:

Brooks estate, owners of the corner three-story building, \$30,000; insurance, \$12,500.

Columbus Clothing Company \$65,000; insurance \$24,000.

Columbus National Bank, building, \$35,000.

Ater building, \$4,000; insurance, \$2,000.

Dr. J. S. Hill, dental office, \$2,000; partially covered.

Miss Grace Woods, about \$300.

Dr. Brewer, office equipment, \$200.

A. J. Rombach, jeweler, \$10,000; partially covered.

Dr. C. D. Goodwin, \$1,500; no insurance.

Burlason's barber shop, \$2,500; insurance \$1,000.

D. S. Pate Lumber Company, office equipment, no estimate.

Dr. D. D. Griffin, dentist, \$1,000.

Southern Railway in Mississippi freight offices, \$2,000, and freight and tariff records.

Draft Board records, complete loss.

L. Marx, office equipment, \$100.

John F. Frieron, law office equipment and library, \$2,500; partially covered.

T. W. Lewis, law office equipment, \$700; no insurance.

Columbus Railway, Light & Power Company, damage to utility and equipment, \$2,000.

Gus Hauser, civil engineer, office equipment and records, \$2,000; no insurance.

Cumberland Telephone Co., damage to equipment and building \$3,000; covered.

E. L. Kuykendall, damage \$1,000.

P. W. Maer, Princess Theatre building, no estimate.

W. C. Beard, damage to building

and Big Dokey ceremonial and spectacular parade which had been arranged for next week has been postponed until April 16. Announcement to this effect was made Sunday.

It was found that it would be impossible for the Imperial Prince to reach Columbus in time for the occasion next week and for this and various other reasons the ceremonial was postponed. It is practically certain that the Imperial Prince will be present on April 16.

A number of the candidates for the Dokey degree have not completed their rank work in the Knights of Pythias and this also was a factor in determining the postponement.

The postponement gives the committees on arrangements ample time to mature their plans for a big ceremonial and it will be a fraternal celebration long to be remembered.

## MR. CLAGGETT HERE.

Mr. R. P. Claggett, general manager of the Greenville and Columbus railway and light properties, was in the city yesterday, receiving the greetings of his friends and their congratulations upon his recovery from his airplane accident received at Austin last November. Mr. Claggett volunteered with the aviation section of the army last spring and was training at Waco, Texas, and was en route to Austin when he was in a smash up. His flying companion, Lieut. Newman, was killed instantly and he received serious injuries, a bad cut on the face and throat, besides numerous other injuries; putting him in the hospital for months. He was discharged only a few weeks ago and has taken up his duties again with his former companies.

Mr. Claggett stated that his companies had had all kinds of trouble as the result of war conditions. The high price of labor, the scarcity of labor, the high price of coal and all elements which go into the manufacture of gas and electricity had made many acute problems which the companies had been called upon to meet. The problem here was in the gas plant and experts have overhauled the entire plant with the view of the improvement of the service, and he was of the opinion that the people would have no cause for complaint in the future.

Mr. Claggett received a cordial welcome from his friends. He is well and favorably known here and is always welcomed.

## CONFERENCE ADJOURNS.

The Quarterly Conference of the Tuscaloosa district of the Alabama Conference, adjourned the past week after a most pleasant and profitable session. Mr. Willette Lawrence represented the Tabernacle church; Mr. Walter Lavender represented the Forest church, and Messrs. Bruce Reedus and B. W. Youngblood attended, representing Andrews Chapel.

## ATTEND WOODMEN MEETING.

The following Columbians were in attendance upon the sessions of the Head Camp for Mississippi of the Woodmen of the World, at Vicksburg, the past week, they having represented Queen City Camp No. 23 at the meeting: Messrs. S. L. Caine, H. F. Simrall, W. H. Duncan, Jim Sykes, J. R. Gray, J. E. Packett, Irby Leech, R. O. Brooks, J. M. Jamison.

## PICTURE SHOW

### OPENS THURSDAY.

The Princess Theatre will have survived the damages and demolition caused by the fire and will show its regular program Thursday afternoon and night. This announcement was made by Manager Kuykendall this morning.

Mr. John L. Guyton has returned to Birmingham after a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Guyton, in this city.

Mr. Robert Kirksey, of Alliceville, Ala., was among the business visitors in the city yesterday.

and stock, \$2,000; covered.

Bush Cafe, damage by water, \$500.

Victor's Confectionary, \$200.

Tony Butera, damage \$100.

## GOV. LONGINO ENTERS RACE

REPLIES TO LETTER OF FRIENDS.  
SAYING THAT HE WILL  
RUN FOR GOV-  
ERNOR.

Makes Fourth Entry into Race—  
Will Give His Platform  
And Make Tour of  
the State.

Magnolia, Miss., March 10, 1919.  
Gov. A. H. Longino,  
Jackson, Miss.

Dear Governor:

I have been thinking about Mississippi's public affairs with deep concern for months, with the hope that after the war, when our brave and gallant boys were at home, our state would take on renewed faith and place the public welfare above men and factional politics, taking advantage of the great lesson we have learned during this bloody war and all unite to make Mississippi second to no State in the Union in agriculture, in education, in material progress and financial achievement. This would be a worthy tribute to her great past, and to the men and women who have made such sacrifices to make the world safe for democracy.

When this world war was at its most critical period, and our allies were straining to the breaking point and the world's freedom was in the balance, they called their truest and best tried men of long experience to positions of responsibility to pilot them through the storm where character, decision and judgment and patriotism measured men for public duty.

I note from the public press, and gather from the people generally in South Mississippi, that many voters of all classes, regardless of profession, calling or trade, or political faction, desire you to enter the race for governor, and this sentiment is without reflection on the gentlemen already in the race.

I recall with gratitude and pride that when the governor of the state it was you who carried strongly as the legislature a plea for a Confederate Veterans' Home at Boanvor, and pointed the way to the establishment of that great institution which has come to be an incomparable blessing to so many needy old patriots of the Lost Cause. I recall also with pride that it was your administration that gave Mississippi a new capitol, which stands in all of its stately magnificence and beauty as an enduring monument to the State's integrity, public spirit, and progress. It stands monumental to the fact that the million dollars appropriated all went into the building and that it was built without graft, scandal, or the suspicion of either and was paid for without the sale of bonds.

It was your administration that found a fit and profitable solution to the convict problem which had so long perplexed the legislators and the people, by purchasing, at a nominal price, a large tract of wild Delta land, and converting it into the most profitable farming scheme in the United States, if not the world; and which paid into the State Treasury during the last fiscal year, as I am informed, more than one million dollars, to help lessen the tax burdens of the people.

If I mistake not, it was your administration that reduced the state tax levy, called in and paid in cash nearly half of the bonded indebtedness of the state five years before the maturity of the bonds inherited from former administrations, thus saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars of interest; and that at the end of your administration the state owed the remarkably small sum of \$600,000 with \$1,000,000 in the state treasury in cash.

In short, your administration is conspicuous for its constructive work, for its economic usage of the public funds—debt paying, not for issuing bonds—for reducing the public debt and for its general progress along educational and governmental lines.

There is another matter that appeals powerfully to the hearts and homes of your fellow-citizens. You had three sons in the war. Two of them are still under arms in France. In active war work and in every other state emergency, you have proven yourself 100 per cent efficient and patriotic. This is a guarantee to the fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, wives and widows of our soldiers and sailors—as well as to our noble soldiers and sailors (Continued on page 3.)